Serial No. 10/810,288

DRAFT Response to Final Official Action
Page 2

Listing of All Claims Including Current Amendments

1. (currently amended) A device for introducing a suture thread anchor into a bone, comprising

a hollow guide sleeve through which a suture thread anchor can be passed, said hollow guide sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end of said guide sleeve having a front annular face,

said guide sleeve comprising a single point projecting distally from said front annular face of said guide sleeve,

wherein said single point is fixed relative to said front annular face,

wherein a shoulder is formed between said distally projecting single point and a remaining part of said front annular face, and

wherein said shoulder extends in a cross section plane being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said guide sleeve.

wherein said front annular face is substantially planar with the exception of said single point and said shoulder.

- 2. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said front annular face extends approximately perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said guide sleeve.
- 3. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said projecting point projects from over a circumferential area of said front annular face.
- 4. (previously presented) The device of claim 3, wherein said circumferential area is about to half of a circumference of said front annular face.
- 5. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said projecting point has a contour curved in an arc shape.

DRAFT

Serial No. 10/810,288 Response to Final Official Action Page 3

DATE

- 6. (previously presented) The device of claim 5, wherein said point is formed by a bevelled cut at said distal end of said guide sleeve.
- 7. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said point is designed as a needle-like point projecting from said front annular face.
- 8. (previously presented) The device of claim 7, wherein said needle-like point having an outermost tip which lies on an outer circumferential line of said guide sleeve.
- 9. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein an anchor rotator is provided, whose shank can be guided through said hollow guide sleeve.
- 10. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, wherein an external diameter of said shank of said anchor rotator approximately corresponds to a clear internal diameter of said guide sleeve.
- 11. (previously presented) The device of claim 10, wherein said suture thread anchor is fitted in said anchor rotator.
- 12. (currently amended) A device for introducing a suture thread anchor into a bone, comprising
- a hollow guide sleeve through which a suture thread anchor can be passed, said hollow guide sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end of said guide sleeve having a front face,

an anchor rotator slideably disposed within said guide sleeve;

said guide sleeve comprising a single point projecting distally from said front face of said guide sleeve,

wherein said single point is fixed relative to said front face,

DRAFT

DATE

Serial No. 10/810,288 Response to Final Official Action Page 4

wherein a shoulder is formed between said distally projecting single point and a remaining part of said front face, and

wherein said shoulder extends in a cross section plane being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said guide sleeve.

wherein said front face is substantially planar with the exception of said-single point and said shoulder.

- 13. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein said front face extends approximately perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said guide sleeve.
- 14. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein said projecting point projects from over a circumferential area of said front face.
- 15. (previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein said circumferential area is about to half of a circumference of said front face.
- 16. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein said projecting point has a contour curved in an arc shape.
- 17. (previously presented) The device of claim 16, wherein said point is formed by a bevelled cut at said distal end of said guide sleeve.
- 18. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein said point is designed as a needle-like point projecting from said front face.
- 19. (previously presented) The device of claim 18, wherein said needle-like point having an outermost tip which lies on an outer circumferential line of said guide sleeve.

DRAFT

DATE

Serial No. 10/810,288 Response to Final Official Action Page 5

- 20. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein an external diameter of said anchor rotator approximately corresponds to a clear internal diameter of said guide sleeve.
- 21. (previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein said suture thread anchor is fitted in said anchor rotator.
- 22. (currently amended) A device for introducing a suture thread anchor into a bone, comprising

a hollow guide sleeve through which a suture thread anchor can be passed, said hollow guide sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end of said guide sleeve having a front annular face,

said guide sleeve comprising a single point projecting distally from said front annular face of said guide sleeve,

wherein said single point is fixed relative to said front annular face,

wherein a shoulder is formed between said distally projecting single point and a remaining part of said front annular face, and

wherein said front annular face is substantially planar and <u>extends in a cross section plane being approximately substantially</u> perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said guide sleeve with the exception of said single point and said shoulder.

- 23: (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein said projecting point projects from over a circumferential area of said front annular face.
- 24. (previously presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said circumferential area is about to half of a circumference of said front annular face.
 - 25. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein said projecting point has a contour curved in an arc shape.

Serial No. 10/810,288 Response to Final Official Action Page 6

DRAFT

DATE

- 26. (previously presented) The device of claim 25, wherein said point is formed by a bevelled cut at said distal end of said guide sleeve.
- 27. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein said point is designed as a needle-like point projecting from said front annular face.
- 28. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein said needle-like point having an outermost tip which lies on an outer circumferential line of said guide sleeve.
- 29. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein an anchor rotator is provided, whose shank can be guided through said hollow guide sleeve.
- 30. (previously presented) The device of claim 29, wherein an external diameter of said shank of said anchor rotator approximately corresponds to a clear internal diameter of said guide sleeve.
- 31. (previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein said suture thread anchor is fitted in said anchor rotator.